



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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"I have not yet begun to fight!"



CASTRO SAYS DAD READY TO RECLAIM SON

By Rick Bragg

As the relatives of Elian Gonzalez continued to defy immigration officials, and politicians here seem to side with them against the federal government, President Fidel Castro of Cuba announced Wednesday night that the boy's father was preparing to come to the United States to reclaim him.

Speaking on Cuban television, Castro said Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez "is ready to immediately" go to Florida with a large group of relatives if the U.S. government committed itself to turning the boy over to him. But a State Department official said Elian's father had not yet asked for a visa.

As of Wednesday evening, Lazaro Gonzalez, the boy's great-uncle and temporary guardian, still had not signed an agreement to hand the child over to immigration officials if the

Miami relatives lose a fight to keep him when the case is heard in May.

"I won't cooperate in anything," Gonzalez told a Spanish-language television station.

Immigration officials said they would reconvene on Thursday at 9 a.m. Earlier, they had said that they would begin arranging Elian's trip back to Cuba if there had been no agreement by 9 a.m. on Thursday. They have now extended the deadline for 24 hours.



From Left: MS1 (SW) Tatyana Hill, IT1 (SW) Tyrone Tate, MSC (SW) Ernesto Camara, HMCS (SW/AW/FMF) Mario Alcantara, HM3 (SW/AW) James Abeyta, and DC1 (SW/AW) Stephen Huitrado received their new warfare pins on Thursday. (Photo by JOC (SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson.)

MARINES START KUWAIT EXERCISE

This morning, most Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) will depart to participate in exercise Eager Mace, a bilateral training exercise with Kuwaiti forces. BONHOMME RICHARD wishes them successful training and a safe journey.

NATIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL NEWS

107 YEARS OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

By Commander SEVENTH Fleet

April 1 marks the 107th anniversary of the Chief Petty Officer, officially established on April 1, 1893. Over the past 107 years, chiefs have been the backbone of the Navy. Every day, more Chief Petty Officers are assuming duties that were traditionally reserved for officers. This is the sign of the trust and respect that has been earned by our chiefs and their predecessors.

The new millennium brings new challenges. The Chief Petty Officers of the 21st century will have to work hard to adapt to the changes ahead. Chiefs have always been the standard bearers of our traditions. In the Navy of tomorrow, those traditions will help keep us focused on our core values. Honor, courage and commitment is what being a United States Navy Sailor is all about.

To each of the chiefs in SEVENTH Fleet, I challenge you to seek out new responsibilities. You must set a strong and positive example every day. The Sailor you train today is the Chief Petty Officer of tomorrow. Well done and thank you!

IRAN TO INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION

By New York Times

Just hours after Iran angrily broke ranks with all other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, its leaders reversed themselves and announced that they would, after all, try to raise production in line with the rest of the oil-producing nations.

WOMAN'S PRIVACY RULED VIOLATED

By New York Times

When President Clinton released personal letters from a woman who had accused him of making a sexual advance, he illegally violated her privacy, a federal judge said Wednesday. Federal District Judge Royce C. Lamberth found that President Clinton had committed "a criminal violation of the Privacy Act" in releasing letters from Kathleen Willey in March 1998, after she accused him in an appearance on the CBS News program "60 Minutes" of making a sexual advance.

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Capt. Douglas W. Keith, Commanding Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer

JOC (SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

JO3 Laura C. Wiggins, Staff Writer

Lt1 Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop

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SATURDAY'S SITE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 BOY MEETS WORLD
1100 THE AIR UP THERE
1630 AIRPLANE!
1800 SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE
1930 MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF
GOOD AND EVIL
2200 THEY WERE EXPENDABLE

CHANNEL 6

1030 SISTER, SISTER
1100 REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE
1630 THE BIG SQUEEZE
1800 DEEP IMPACT
2000 THE STORY OF US
2130 CONSPIRACY THEORY

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

STOCK MARKET REPORT/NATIONAL NEWS

TECHNOLOGY STOCKS OFF SHARPLY

By Robert D. Hershey Jr.

Technology stocks sent the Nasdaq stock market to the biggest of three consecutive losses Wednesday as more investors abandoned recent market favorites for the perceived comfort of General Electric and other household names. The Nasdaq composite index shed 189.22 points, or 3.9 percent, to 4,644.67.

The Dow Jones industrial average staged an afternoon rally of as much as 165 before losing half of it toward the close. It ended the day with a gain of 82.61 points, to 11,018.72. GE accounted for nearly half the Dow's gain, jumping 7 1/2 to a record close of 163 1/2 after an analyst at Prudential Securities raised his price target to 210 from 185. Wal-Mart and Exxon Mobil each surged more than 4 points, the latter among the many oil-related stocks that reversed Tuesday's ragged performance as analysts and investors further digested OPEC's announcement of plans to raise production. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index finished up 0.79 points, to 1,508.52.

EPA TO CAP CONTAMINATION SITE

By The New York Times

Taking the first steps toward controlling the largest known site of DDT contamination in the country, the Environmental Protection Agency plans to cap parts of the deposit, which lies in the Pacific Ocean off the Southern California coast near Palos Verdes Peninsula.

A \$5 million pilot program that will focus on four areas within the 17-square-mile site was announced Wednesday as the agency unveiled a \$22 million plan to raise public awareness about the contamination.

POLICE OFFICERS CRITICIZE GIULIANI

By Kevin Flynn

Even as he defends his Police Department daily from what he has characterized as bashing, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is facing increasingly vocal criticism of his style and tactics on law enforcement matters from an unlikely quarter: police officers.

Many officers say they appreciate Giuliani's support for the police officers involved in the recent shooting of an unarmed black man.

However, many also say the mayor's zero-tolerance approach to crime and his limited outreach to the African-American and Latino communities have needlessly widened the breach between the police and people in the neighborhoods they serve.

In interviews with 18 officers of various ranks in the last few days, six supported the mayor's stance, while a dozen said the mayor's strong language and aggressive policies have undermined one of the police force's greatest assets, community support.

"He's made it more difficult to patrol in minority neighborhoods," said one detective who works for a police squad in Manhattan. "He is making it sound like it is 'us against them.' I think it's adding to the anger."

FLAG AMENDMENT VOTED DOWN

By The New York Times

Following two days of heartfelt speeches about patriotism and symbolism, the Senate Wednesday voted down a constitutional amendment to give Congress the power to ban the desecration of the American flag.

SPORTS

NBA

Anthony Mason had 22 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a 98-91 victory over the Detroit Pistons. The Hornets now lead the Pistons by three games in the race for the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

ANOTHER NBA SCORE:

Denver 101 Washington 93

NHL

Sergei Fedorov got his 300th goal and Detroit scored four times in the third period as the Red Wings dampened the Vancouver Canucks' play-off chances with a 6-3 victory.

OTHER NHL SCORES:

Dallas 4	Florida 1
Carolina 3	Nashville 1
Montreal 4	Boston 3

\$ FINANCIAL CORNER \$

Using Credit Cards

Credit cards can be a big benefit, due to their convenience. They can even save money. The best use of a credit card may be to offer **not** to use it! Some merchants will give a slight additional discount on a purchase if you offer to pay cash rather than use a credit card. A credit card can also be very valuable in an emergency. However, credit cards can become a problem. Normally the worst use of a credit card is for a cash advance. Not only can this be a symptom of bigger problems, but remember that the interest rate clock starts ticking the moment the cash comes out of the ATM; there are virtually no cards that offer any grace period on cash advances. Credit cards are not a way to live beyond your means. The bills eventually come due. It's so easy to say "charge it," but you may be shocked when the bills arrive. To avoid such unwelcome surprises, here are several steps you might want to take:

- Keep a running total of the amounts you charge, and don't go over what you've planned to spend.
- Carry only the cards you'll need for a particular buying trip.
- If you don't need anything, stay out of the stores.
- Don't shop when depressed or stressed.
- Skip over tempting ads, throw out special flyers, etc.
- Curb impulse purchases—look, admire, but don't touch.
- If you are a "credit-holic," cut up your cards and deal strictly in cash.

What To Get And What To Avoid

What to get:

- If you pay your balance every month, look for a low or no annual fee.
- If you carry a balance, look for the lowest Annual Percentage Rate (APR).

What to avoid:

- Signing without a stated APR.
- Prestige Cards (Gold/Platinum).
- High-priced, add-ons (e.g., credit life insurance).
- Taking cash advances.
- Using "convenience checks."

Military members are often the target of high-pressure sales and advertising campaigns because of their secure paychecks and the potential impact of debt on their careers. Service members have a responsibility to pay their just debts in a timely manner and a manner that will not bring discredit to the military.

Using credit means taking out a loan to pay for something. Credit is something we will use throughout our lifetime, and can be a valuable tool. However, it can also be a source of long lasting difficulty. The availability and over-extension of credit has contributed significantly to the rise in personal bankruptcy rates in the past 20 years.

Questions to ask before using credit :

- Will your budget be able to handle the increased payment months or years down the road? What will the extra payment do to your debt-to-income ratio?
- Have you shopped carefully for credit? Are you getting the best rate?
- What will you have to show for all that money after the loan is repaid?

Wise use of credit can be a key element in achieving financial independence; misuse can be a ticket to financial ruin.